

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF NEVADA

* * *

ANTHONY MABRY.

| Case No. 3:14-cv-00312-MMD-WGC

Petitioner.

ORDER

v.

STATE OF NEVADA, et al.,

Respondents.

This habeas action comes before the Court for initial review.

Petitioner presents a handwritten motion to vacate sentence bearing the docket number for a state district court case in the Eighth Judicial District Court, State of Nevada. The certificate of service, however, shows the address for the Las Vegas Clerk's Office for this Court. The envelope instead was addressed to the Reno Clerk's Office for this Court.

It is quite possible that petitioner simply mistakenly sent a paper that he intended to file in the state district court instead to the federal court clerk. However, to the extent that petitioner intends to seek relief in federal court, the papers presented are subject to multiple substantial defects.

First, petitioner did not properly commence the federal action by either paying the filing fee or submitting a properly completed pauper application.

Second, petitioner did not seek federal habeas relief on the Court's required habeas petition form.

1 Third, petitioner did not name a proper respondent. Petitioner must name his
 2 immediate physical custodian as respondent in order to invoke the Court's habeas
 3 jurisdiction. See, e.g., *Rumsfeld v. Padilla*, 542 U.S. 426 (2004). He instead named the
 4 State of Nevada as the only adverse party, and the Clerk also has supplied the state
 5 attorney general as a respondent. Petitioner may not bring a civil action in federal court
 6 directly against the State of Nevada because of the state sovereign immunity
 7 recognized by the Eleventh Amendment, regardless of the relief sought. E.g., *Pennhurst*
 8 *State School & Hospital v. Halderman*, 465 U.S. 89, 101-02 (1984).

9 Due to these multiple defects, the petition in this improperly-commenced action
 10 will be dismissed without prejudice. It does not appear that a dismissal without prejudice
 11 to a new federal action, if pursued at this point, would materially impact adjudication of
 12 any issue in a promptly filed new action or otherwise cause substantial prejudice.
 13 Review of the online docket sheet for the state district court action, Case No. C-13-
 14 292602-1, reflects that the judgment of conviction was filed on June 13, 2014. No claims
 15 have been presented to the state supreme court for a decision on the merits. It therefore
 16 would appear that the federal one-year limitation period has not expired as yet, and
 17 petitioner further does not appear to have any exhausted claims at this juncture.¹

18 It is therefore ordered that this action shall be dismissed without prejudice.

19 It is further ordered that a certificate of appealability is denied, as jurists of reason
 20 would not find the dismissal of this improperly-commenced action to be either debatable
 21 or incorrect, given the multiple substantial defects presented and the absence of any
 22 substantial collateral prejudice to petitioner from the dismissal without prejudice.

23 ¹Petitioner at all times remains responsible for calculating the running of all
 24 applicable state and federal limitation periods and timely asserting claims in a proper
 forum.

25 Petitioner should note that if he instead intended to seek relief from the state
 26 district court, he will need to file a motion in that court. At present, he has filed a motion
 27 to vacate sentence in a federal district court that pertains to a pending state criminal
 28 proceeding. The filing in federal court does not bring any matter before the state court.

Nothing herein instructs or advises petitioner to file any proceeding in either state
 or federal court. The Court only is dismissing an improperly commenced action without
 prejudice.

1 The Clerk shall enter final judgment accordingly, dismissing this action without
2 prejudice.

DATED THIS 18th day of June 2014.


MIRANDA M. DU
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE